ISSN 2073-5111(Print)

nature net

naturekenya.org • August '11

Lakes Nakuru, Bogoria and Elementaita, and Fort Jesus National Monument, become World Heritage Sites

A flock of Pelicans at Lake Nakuru National Park. Lake Nakuru was the first African Park to be branded as an Important Bird Area - areas of international importance to bird conservation *Photo: G. Shorrock*

Lakes Nakuru, Bagaria and Elementaita , famaus for their vast numbers af flamingaes, are now internationally recognized as places of natural beauty and biadiversity after jaining the caveted Warld Natural Heritage List in June at the meeting af UNESCO's World Heritage Cammittee in Paris, France.

The entry af the three lakes ta the list is welcomed by Nature Kenya, as it will strengthen their status as critical sites for bird conservation. The lakes are glabally impartant due ta their vital role in providing feeding sites and refuge ta most of the world's Lesser Flamingoes.

Lake Nakuru, the first Natianal Park in Africa branded as an Impartant Bird Area, is a majar tourist attractian known far the thousands of flamingoes that turn its shores pink.

Lake Elementaita, gazetted last year as a Wildlife Sanctuary, is knawn to be a vital wintering ground for migratory bird species and also a majar breeding ground for Great White Pelicans.

Lake Bogaria is knawn bath for its abundant flamingoes and its bailing hot springs.

With an expected boast in taurist visitar numbers, communities around the lakes will benefit from the opportunities that will came with the new status.

Fort Jesus National Monument in Mombasa has also been recagnized as a World Cultural Heritage Site by UNESCO. This puts it an the same level as ather famaus world heritage sites including Lamu Island, the Old City af Jerusalem, and the Pyramids of Giza.

Receive the newsletter by E-mail

Please send a request to <marketing@naturekenya.org>

Please indicate whether you also wish to get the newsletter by post.

A Business - Conservation Model for South Nandi Forest, an Important Bird Area

Alex Ngari

Throughout the world, where people are deprived of rights to a good livelihoad, it is usually a Herculean task to preach the conservation gospel, and chances of getting any genuine followers are almost zero. It is for this reason that the idea to start conservation work at South Nandi forest through a business and people driven model was canceived. This concept was succesfully marketed to DFID, the British aid agency, by RSPB - the Royal Society far the Protectian af Birds, wha are aur BirdLife International Partner in the UK. The model has several campanents, but possibly the mast unique is the creatian af a business entity by the forest user groups, identified through the establishment af community-government forest management structure.

Tree seedlings at a community managed woodlot at the South Nandi Forest. Nature Kenya is involved in training the Chesumei Multipurpose Cooperative Society in business management skills to improve their livelihoods through sale of seedling while still being involved in forest management and conservation. Photo: NK archive

Kobujoi Community Forest Association is the structure that engages Kenya Forest Service in the management of Kobujoi block of South Nandi Forest in the Rift Valley. The CFA is, however, not enabled by law to engage in commercial activities. Yet its building blacks, the user groups, require avenues to generate incomes for forest related activities and for their household use. Faced with this challenge, the user groups came together and after deliberations, the idea of forming Chesumei Multipurpose Cooperative Society was born.

Today, the society is registered, has 500 members (300 women and 200 men), and has a bank account with the members' start-up capital of KShs. 6,000. It has succeeded in brakering a business partnership between tree growers and George Williamson Tea Estates for supply of wood for fuel.

Patrick Meja the Saciety's secretary, says, "Nature Kenya trained us on governance, benefit sharing mechanisms, organizational development, business and products develapment & marketing, documentation & recard keeping and resource mobilization, among other subjects". He attests that the trainings have improved marketing and leadership skills among the officials, while members are now more aware of their access and user rights to natural resources as communities.

The work of the cooperative society, whose creation was inspired by canservation, is enormous and well cut out. There are some 52,700 mature trees in peoples' farm which require ta be sold. The communities have, since the project started, established some 138.5 ha of waadlats which when mature will need ta be marketed and sold. Currently, this seems ta be no big task far the cooperative since George Williamson Tea Estates can consume a total of 15, 000M3 of fuelwood annually. This is a ready market identified.

The communities are also engaging in production of high quality honey which needs to be marketed. Ecotourism is another income generating activity that the community is developing. The DFID praject is helping to provide start up capital investment, including establishment of basic tourist facilities such as a camp site and traditional bandas. These and other troursit attractions at the forest will require a lot of marketing to start generating the desired income. The cooperative has however approached Rondo Retreat at Kakamega for possible business partnerships and the response has been positive. Clearly the cooperative is making headways.

The foundation for sustainable conservation of South Nandi Forest has been laid using a business approach. Enormous local capacity has been achieved with regard to natural resource management and institutional development. Twa CFAs have been established and have started engaging the government in farest conservation. If these developments are anything to go by, then there is no doudt that the DFID investment will leave a permanent positive mark on the South Nandi communities and the forest biodiversity.

Editorial team
Agatha Nthenge
Fleur Ng'weno
Serah Mungutti
Layout *Ernest Mwangela*
Front banner *NK Archive*

NatureKenya
The East Africa Natural History Society

Connecting nature & people
For contributions, advertising and subscriptions - contact us at
P. O. Box 44486 GPO, Nairobi Tel: 20 3749957 or 3746090 Fax: 20 3741049
office@naturekenya.org www.naturekenya.org
Printed with support from:

BirdLife International
Together for birds and people
RSPB
EGP The Netherlands
WWF
IUCN The World Conservation Union

naturalist

Go out and Look!
at the Evening Sky

Fleur Ng'weno

Choose an evening with no clouds or few clouds, and look up at the dark sky after sunset. Can you find the moon, stars and planets as mentioned below?

Moon, August 2011

The new moon that will be seen on July 31 or August 1 marks the start of Ramadhan, the Muslim month of fasting and prayer. Look for the slender crescent moon above the sunset, near the tiny planet Mercury and the bright star Regulus.

August 6, a "half" moon – called the first quarter – is overhead at sunset. On August 13 the full moon rises in the east, opposite the sunset. August 21, a "half" moon – called the last quarter – is overhead at sunrise. The new moon on August 29 may be sighted over the sunset on August 30, marking the end of the Muslim month of Ramadhan with the celebration of Idd ul Fitr.

Planets, August 2011

The planet Saturn is high in the west at the start of August, gradually dipping lower. It looks like a bright star but glows with a steady, golden light. The crescent moon is near Saturn on August 4.

Bright Jupiter rises just after midnight in early August, and is overhead at dawn. The moon is near Jupiter on August 20. Mars, quite faint at the moment, is lower is the east at dawn; the moon is near Mars on August 25.

During August, Venus is between the earth and the sun. It will reappear in the sunset in September.

August Stars

The large constellation of Scorpio, the Scorpion, dominates the southern sky. Look for its fiery eye, the reddish star Antares; the three bright stars forming the Scorpion's claws; and the long tail like a fishhook with two stars for the sting. The moon is near Antares on August 8.

To the right (southwest) of the Scorpion are the two bright stars af the Centaur, and the Southern Cross, now setting.

To the left (east) of the Scorpion, a group of bright stars form a shape like a basket with a handle. This is the constellation of Sagittarius, the Archer.

North (left) of Sagittarius, the bright star Altair, escorted by two smaller stars, is rising. Further north, look for the very bright white light of the star Vega.

In the northwest, the constellation of the Big Dipper (the Plough) seems to be pouring towards the horizon. Above it, high in the northwest, is the bright orange star Arcturus.

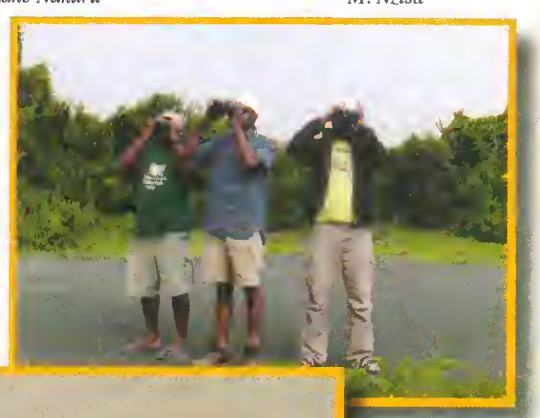
The blue-white star Spica is high in the southwest, above the planet Saturn. The moon is near Spica on August 5.

Invest in the future of our natural environment by leaving a living legacy in your will –
Enquiries will be kept confidential

SPOTTED!!

Waterfowl Census, July 2011

Cattle Egret at Lake Nakuru -M. Nzisa



Volunteers Chege W., Kuria N. and Joshua W. on their way to Lake Bogoria for the Waterfowl Census -M. Nzisa

A flock of Lesser Flamingoes at Lake Nakuru -M. Nzisa

Conserve more with your Nature Kenya
Membership !

NatureKenya

Sign up three (3) new members to Nature Kenya and enjoy **Your benefits + 50% off** on your next renewal.

YOUR BENEFITS !
- A chance to contribute to nature conservation campaigns
- FREE entry to Nairobi National Museum and some museum sites
- Participation in bird walks, nature walks, research opportunities, field trips, talks & films
- Monthly newsletter, *"Nature Net"* and other publications

The membership types and annual costs are

For more information, contact 020 3746090/9957 or 0750 149200
Email:office@naturekenya.org
Website: www.naturekenya.org
connecting nature and people !! Terms and conditions apply

in the field

AUG 2011: TO DO LIST

Aug 3 Morning Birdwalk
Aug 6 FoCP Nature Walk
Aug 13 FONA Tree Walk
Aug 21 Sunday birdwatch
Aug 25 FONA Public Lecture:
Promoting Green Spaces through Eco Tourism
Aug 26 FONA's compost course
Aug 29 FONA Tree Walk

Bird ringing every Tuesday morning at 8 a.m. (check with Ornithology section, National Museums)

We apologise for the mix-up in FONA's activities last month

Wednesday Morning Birdwalks meet EVERY WEEK at 8:45 am in the Museum staff car park. The entrance is on Kipande Road.

Sunday Birdwatch (also called "Pot-luck Outings") meet the THIRD Sunday of each month at 9:00 am at the same location. Bring lunch.

Mombasa Birdwalks Contact Taibali Hamzali through <thamzali@gmail.com> or call 0733980540 for more information.

Contact the office for information on other birdwalks in Kakamega, Kisumu, and other sites
Ngong Forest walks - 1st and 3rd Saturday at 9.00 a.m. Contact Simon 0729-840715

SUCCULENTA EAST AFRICA FIELD TRIPS

Plans are ongoing for trips to Acacia Camp at Athi River with day trips to Lukenia and Maanzoni on the 30th of September/1st and 2nd October.
Details to be circulated to members soon - limited numbers only.
Please liaise with Sue Allan (0733 891721), Julia Glen (0722756647) or Gail Paul (0733630151) for more information.

Call us: +254 20 3501671/2, +254 733610753, +254733633988, +254722764643 sales@sollatek.co.ke

Available at the Nature Kenya Shop

Fish Excursion at Kirichwa River - Arboretum

Join the Samaki Working Group and FONA on Thursday 18TH AUGUST for a FREE half day excursion to the Kirichwa Rvr.
Meet at the Nairobi Arboretum, at 9:00 am (Outside FONA offices)
Carry water, a snack lunch and bring gumboots.
For more information contact:
Julius- 0722989678
Caro- 0720976093

Yes! Start my Nature Kenya membership

Surname _____
First Name _____
Ms/Mr/Title _____
Address _____
Tel _____
Mobile _____
Email _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPEs (Choose one)

	Ksh Per Year
Full	*2,000*
Sponsor	*6,000*
Family	*2,800*
Student	*1,200*
Schools, Clubs	*1,500*
Corporate	*10,000*
Corporate Plus	*30,000*

Direct Debit
SIGN UP NOW AND GET 3 MONTHS FREE!
Inquire from office@naturekenya.org
Pay by MPesa
Business number 100300